

JUL 11 2019

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AT BALTIMORE
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MARYLAND**AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION
FOR A SEARCH WARRANT FOR US MAIL PARCELS**

BY

DEPUTY

Your Affiant, Christopher Johnson, United States Postal Inspector, Baltimore, MD, being duly sworn, hereby deposes and states as follows:

I. Subject Parcels.

1. This is an Affidavit submitted in support of an Application for a Search Warrant for two (2) subject US Mail Parcels, hereinafter "Subject Parcels," or "SP." These subject parcels are currently located at the Incoming Mail Facility, in Linthicum Heights, Maryland. The subject parcels are specifically identified as follows:

<i>Subject Parcel</i>	<i>Express (E), Priority (P) and (F) First Class Tracking ID number</i>	<i>From: Name and Address</i>	<i>To: Name and Address</i>
1.	(P) 9505 5142 0879 9163 3938 18	Oliver Frye 14038 Gilmore St Los Angeles, CA 91401	Kait Frye 95 W. Oldtown Rd Apt 5A Cumberland, MD 21502
2.	(P) 9505 5142 0879 9163 3938 25	Oliver Frye 14038 Gilmore St Los Angeles, CA 91401	Kait Frye 95 W. Oldtown Rd Apt 5A Cumberland, MD 21502

II. Affiant's Training and Experience

2. Your Affiant, Christopher Johnson, has been a United States Postal Inspector since April 2013 and has completed 12 weeks of basic investigative training in Potomac, Maryland, which included various aspects of federal law enforcement including the investigation of narcotics-related offenses. Your Affiant has participated in interdictions and controlled deliveries related to narcotics investigations. As a result of your Affiant's training and experience, your Affiant is

aware that Priority Mail Express and Priority Mail services are regularly used by narcotic traffickers to ship controlled substances and bulk cash through the US Mail.

3. Based upon my training and experience in the field of narcotic interdiction through the mails, I know that there are suspicious characteristics common to many packages that contain narcotics, controlled substances or the proceeds thereof (i.e. US currency). These factors, more fully detailed below, are used to identify packages requiring further investigation. In the case of this search warrant, several of these factors were identified, and the package was alerted to by the drug detection canine. The most common factors or suspicious characteristics routinely observed in the course of screening packages are as follows:

a. *Contrasts observed between legitimate business parcels and drug parcels:* As an alternative to First Class Mail (which does not provide a customer with the capability to track the progress of a parcel through the system), the US Postal Service offers Priority Mail Express and Priority Mail. Priority Mail Express is guaranteed (money back) to be delivered on a set date and time, usually overnight. (That deadline is determined at the time of mailing.) The customer receives a receipt with this guaranteed information, and the sender can opt for a signature requirement at the other end or not. Customers can track the parcel on line by its distinct Priority Mail Express tracking number. The weight of the package and the distance traveled are the two main factors in setting the price. Priority Mail Express costs more than Priority Mail. Priority Mail has a delivery service standard of 1-3 business days, but delivery within that time period is not guaranteed. Priority Mail is a less expensive alternative to Priority Mail Express, but still provides the ability to track a parcel. Legitimate businesses using Priority Mail Express typically have a business or corporate account visible on the mailing label, which covers the cost of the mailing. In contrast, the drug distributor will pay for the cost of mailing the package at the counter

by using cash or a credit card. Business Priority Mail Express parcels typically weigh no more than 8 ounces, and business Priority Mail parcels typically weigh no more than 2 pounds. Drug packages typically exceed these weights. Address labels on business parcels are typically typed, whereas those on drug packages are typically handwritten. In your Affiant's experience, it is fairly easy to separate out smaller parcels, which constitute 70% to 80% of all Priority Mail Express and Priority Mail parcels, from other, heavier parcels. Typically, drug traffickers use Priority Mail Express, and will opt out of the requirement of obtaining a signature upon delivery.

b. *Invalid Sender/Return Address:* When drugs are shipped through the mail, the senders generally do not want them back. To distance themselves from parcels containing drugs, often the return addresses and the names of senders are fictitious or false. A fictitious or false address is anything from an incorrect zip code, to a non-existent house number or street. The name of the sender is also typically invalid in one of several ways. Your Affiant has seen packages sent by persons with names of celebrities, cartoon characters, or fictional names. More often a search of a law enforcement database reflects that there is no association between the name of the sender and the address provided.

c. *Invalid Recipient/Address:* It would be counter-productive to put the wrong receiving address on a package, but often the named recipient is not actually associated with the receiving address. This allows the person receiving the package to claim that they did not know about its contents. Sometimes drug packages are addressed to vacant properties with the expectation that the postal carrier will just leave it at the address. The intended recipient will then retrieve it from that location and hope to remain anonymous.



d. *Location of Sender:* The fact that a package was sent from narcotics source states such as Arizona, California, Texas, Washington, Colorado, Puerto Rico and Florida (among others) can also indicate that the parcel contains controlled substances.

e. *Smell:* The odor of cocaine, marijuana, and methamphetamine are distinct, and through experience postal inspectors are familiar with these odors. On occasion, a parcel will emit an odor that is easily recognized without the assistance of a canine. Other smells that suggest that a parcel may contain narcotics include the aroma of masking agents. Common masking agents used in an attempt to thwart detection by law enforcement and canines typically include dryer sheets, coffee, mustard, and any other substance that releases a strong smell.

f. *Heavy Taping:* Heavily taped parcels are another factor that will suggest a drug parcel, because narcotics parcels are heavily taped in an effort to keep the smell inside and to forestall easy checking on the interior contents by lifting up a flap. For this reason, your Affiant has also observed excessive glue on the flaps of narcotics parcels as well.

g. *Click-N-Ship:* The US Postal Service created Click-N-Ship as a service for frequent mailers and businesses who prefer printing address labels and purchasing postage from their residence or business. Drug traffickers create Click-N-Ship accounts as a means of giving a legitimate appearance to their drug mailings. They create the accounts using fictitious account information and often provide pre-paid credit cards as a means of payment, which are difficult to track. Drug traffickers often use legitimate business return addresses in states other than California and Arizona as a means to deter detection, as these other states are not usually considered "source" states for controlled substances. The postage labels are printed/typed, unlike the typical drug related mailing label which is handwritten.



4. It is your Affiant's experience that when these factors are observed, a drug detection K-9 will likely "alert," next to the parcel, indicating that the dog has detected the presence of narcotics. As a result, these factors become a reliable way to profile the parcels being shipped every day.

5. The facts contained in this affidavit are based on my personal knowledge as well as that of the other agents involved in this investigation. All observations that were not made personally by me were related to me by persons with knowledge. This affidavit contains that information necessary to establish probable cause to support an application for a search warrant. This affidavit is not intended to include each and every fact and matter observed by or made known to agents of the government.

III. Probable Cause

6. On June 13, 2019, a confidential informant ("CI") for the Northwest Virginia Regional Drug Task Force conducted a controlled purchase of 14 grams of cocaine in Frederick County VA. During the controlled purchase, the target of the investigation, Lemuel Roberts, advised he would be getting marijuana "tomorrow."

7. On June 14, 2019, agents from the Northwest Virginia Regional Drug Task Force executed a search warrant at Roberts' residence located at 100 Oakmont Drive in Frederick County, VA. Agents located a shipping receipt from California. The receipt showed four packages being shipped from California. Two of the packages were shipped to Winchester, VA and the other two were being shipped to Cumberland, Maryland with Priority Mail tracking numbers 9505 5142 0879 9163 3938 18 and 9505 5142 0879 9163 3938 25. Agents also located a luggage slip showing that Roberts had recently been at Los Angeles International airport. Agents from the Northwest Virginia Regional Drug Task Force contacted U.S. Postal Inspectors to intercept the



subject parcels.

8. The following factors or suspicious characteristics are present in the subject parcels:

<i>Subject Parcel Express or Priority</i>	<i>From Source State:</i>	<i>Weight:</i>	<i>Label:</i>	<i>Senders name associated with address? Yes / No</i>	<i>Recipients name associated with address? Yes / No</i>	<i>Canine Alert?</i>
1. Priority	Yes- CA	10 lbs 15 ozs	Handwritten	No	No	Yes -Miki
2. Priority	Yes- CA	19 lbs .8 ozs	Handwritten	No	No	Yes -Miki

9. The suspicious characteristics listed above were identified while the subject parcels were in the mail stream. On June 18, 2019, the subject parcels listed above were individually removed from the mail stream. On June 20, 2019, law enforcement used standard protocol for canine detection to determine whether there was probable cause that the subject parcels contained narcotics. Specifically, after being removed from the mail stream, the parcels were individually placed in a secure area next to several other empty and unused boxes at the Incoming Mail Facility, Linthicum Heights, Maryland. At that time, one narcotic detection canine "Miki" was brought forward to scan the group of boxes, which included the individual subject parcel and the empty and unused boxes placed around the subject parcel. The handler observed the canine and then informed agents whether the dog alerted on the subject parcel. The canine handler for "Miki" is Anne Arundel County Police Detective Jonathan VanDyke. "Miki" was last certified in November 2018 and is trained on the odor of cocaine, crack, crystal methamphetamine, heroin, marijuana, and MDMA. Additionally, "Miki" receives monthly

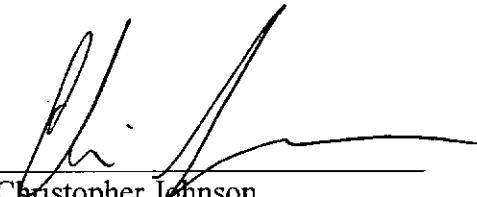
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recurrent narcotics odor detecting training. As indicated in the chart above, the drug detection dog alerted to the presence of narcotics for each of the Subject Parcels.

6.

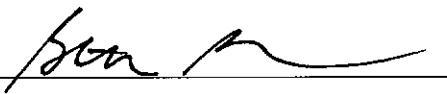
VI. Conclusion

10. Your Affiant submits that based upon the above indicators reflected in the two (2) parcels described herein, my training and experience, the information obtained from the Northwest Regional Drug Task Force, and the alert of a trained canine on each package, there is probable cause that the above-described subject parcels contain narcotics or controlled substances, or the proceeds thereof (i.e. US currency) and/or materials relating to the distribution of controlled substances through the United States Mail.



Christopher Johnson
United States Postal Inspector

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 26th day of June, 2019.



United States Magistrate Judge

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ATTACHMENT A

DESCRIPTION OF PARCELS TO BE SEARCHED

<i>Subject Parcel</i>	<i>Express (E), Priority (P) and (F) First Class Tracking ID number</i>	<i>From: Name and Address</i>	<i>To: Name and Address</i>
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